

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MAY 11, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was convened at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Nancy Walsh
Richard Moore
Matthew Carron
Vincent Lipinski

Kevin Bellows
Marie Petitti
Lee DeFusco
Michael Travisano

Also,
Dmitri Paris, Parks Superintendent
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:

Jen Liebowitz, Koger Road, Eagles Lacrosse
Martin McCann, 63 Teeter Rock Road, Trumbull Rotary Club
Byron Campbell, 49 Woodlawn Drive, Trumbull AYSO
Jim Fracker, 50 Harborside Avenue, Milford, Trumbull AYSO
Anthony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road, Open Space Properties
Jason Lewis, 29 Columbine Drive, Trumbull United Soccer
Laurie Lewis, 29 Columbine Drive, Trumbull United Soccer

Public Comments:

Jen Liebowitz, Eagles Lacrosse:

There is a Summer Lacrosse program comprising Trumbull High, St. Joseph High, and Fairfield Prep students, all graduating in 2016. They wish to schedule field space for summer practice. They like to continue playing together through the summer. They look to schedule ten practices, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., June 16 to July 16. Fee is \$550. They would like to schedule on the new grass field at Indian Ledge or at THS Turf field. Their insurance is through US Lacrosse.

Martin McCann, Trumbull Rotary Club:

They are requesting permission to host its 15th annual 5K Sunset Run at Twin Brooks Park on Friday, July 24th. Between 3:00 p.m. until dusk. Proceeds go to their non-profit account covering community events. They conduct their event in cooperation with the Parks Superintendent, Rangers and Police Department. Superintendent stated the planning is down to a science now and we haven't had a problem for many years.

Byron Campbell and James Fracker, Trumbull AYSO:

They reviewed a new program they would like to do in 2015/2016.

- This is an Academy Program for ages U7 to U9 to give more training for about 25 youth who want to do more training.
- No try-outs, same field space during the week.
- Not going to be a travel program, not a league.
- They don't see any conflict with Trumbull United. This is a training program between AYSO and Trumbull United. Next step would be to move to play travel or premier. AYSO doesn't have a next step.
- More sophisticated than clinics.
- AYSO does host tournaments; these trainees could play.
- AYSO has 1313 youth in program.

Tony D'Aquila, Resident

Present to request the Commission consider converting the current open space Drew Bill and the Dirago Properties to Parkland Properties. They are in the Southeast sector of town which doesn't currently have a community park and feels it would be pro-active to convert this open space to parkland. He also noted that the last time a Plan of Development was accomplished for parkland was in 1978 and suggested it was time to update that Plan.

Chairman noted we have done an extensive amount of work on the Bill Property to clean it up, seeded a stabilized a green area, the residence has now been converted to our Ranger Station for security. The combined properties cover 68 acres. He thanked Mr. D'Aquila for his comments.

Jason and Laurie Lewis, Trumbull United Soccer:

Expressed concern with AYSO's proposal for a new program. Laurie president of Trumbull United for 2 ½ years noted there has been little communication with AYSO. Feels they should be working together as a cohesive Program in town. That has not happened yet. She feels this new program will lead into additional field time on the over-taxed scheduling already. She would like to have the two groups sit down side by side to come up with an agreement as Little League and Babe Ruth League have done. Olay a private group will be conducting the program on the Town's Kaechele field. They felt they don't know where this proposal is leading. They would like to have Trumbull United as the next step but AYSO doesn't communicate with them unless they are joined by the Recreation Director or the Parks Superintendent. They request help with possibly a Committee to assist them with joint discussions.

Upon question they responded:

- Trumbull United ages U8/9 up to High School, stop at age 14. (New AYSO program is U7/9)
- Then, move to High School Premier Program.
- Kids who don't make a team encouraged to play AYSO along with Trumbull United.

Byron Campbell (AYSO) interjected that they are trying to do this in the correct manner. He feels they (Trumbull United) don't have the correct information. In response to question he stated that the next step could be Trumbull United or another Fairfield County travel group. They move on to a travel program like Trumbull United.

James Fracker stated that if a child gets cut from Trumbull United, they come back to AYSO and play to get better training.

Commissioner DeFusco commented that if they don't resolve their problems amongst themselves someone else will solve it for them and they won't be very happy... so the intelligent thing for them to do...before we meet again next month they should put this hard feelings aside, man-up, drop their antagonism here, all playing soccer, do something together that's good for all of these kids playing soccer and report back to us next month to say they're all set, or otherwise someone will decide for them and it's not what either one of you want. That's what he suggested.

The Lewis's felt that was a good suggestion.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Atty. DeFusco, and unanimously passed to close meeting to guests.

MOTION by Mr. Carron, second by Dr. Travisano, and passed (Mr. Lipinski abstained), to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 meeting.

Correspondence:

Pickle Ball:

Chairman stated that following a conversation with a resident Greg Bivona pickle ball player on cost to line a tennis court that was half the cost of our \$750 quotation in two other communities, the Chairman contacted Classic Turf and was told that the cost was \$650 for labor and \$100 for materials. The question is why the difference and does this have impact on our Warranty as we are a composite material rather than asphalt. We have never veered away from the Warranty issues as we are tied to the product. Superintendent is not opposed to reaching out to other vendors; but, needs to keep the Warranty issues in mind. Superintendent has always been concerned about the Warranty, asphalt courts are different from a composite surface, what justifies double the cost he is not aware of. We have a very specific material there. He indicated that any funds we thought we had for lining a pickle ball court are currently not available as heavy winter-damage repair to the courts is in process.

Discussion:

- Table for more background, research,
- If another vendor were to paint on our court what does it do to the Warranty?
- Decision to consider isolating pickle ball to a two-court location rather than a four-court location.
- Recreation Director noted that Nothnagle courts (two court location) get heavy tennis use.
- There is a potential conflict...different sounds, different movements, and tennis players aren't the happiest playing side by side with pickle ball.
- Elderly could get hit with a hard hit tennis ball.
- Pickle ball players and they stand close to the net, could get hit in the back of the head.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to table discussion on lining of a tennis court for pickle ball until we have more data.

Old Business:

Cell Tower Request Update:

Town Attorney has determined that the site suggested for a Cell Tower Installation is not on parkland; but was a part of an 18 acre parcel purchased from the Velardi family in 1969 for \$63,000 and falls under the Town's domain rather than parks and will be taken up by the Administration and the Town Council.

Parks Entry Signs:

Superintendent indicated that the required adjustments to our entry signs indicating "Permit Parking Year Round" will be completed by the May 15, 2015 begin date. Some interior signs needs to be removed.

New Business:

BMX:

Chairman reported he was approached by BMX indicating their inside concession stand doesn't meet the Health Code requirements. They would like to bring in a Concession truck three times a week: Mondays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturdays Noon to 2:00 P.M. He contacted the Town's purchasing agent who said for us to prepare bid specifications and he would put it out to bid. The Superintendent and Recreation Director indicated that if they just asked for permission to allow BMX to have a food truck because of the lack of a concession stand and the Town is not hiring the concessionaire, they felt a bid is not required. They will clarify the situation with the Purchasing Agent. All health and background requirements must be followed in order for the police to grant the vendor a permit. Due to the nature of their season, the commission will be polled for permission so that they are able to get the food truck in a timely manner.

Fishing Permit Parking:

In the past, windshield permits were issued to fishermen with fishing licenses for parking at fishing areas only (Unity, Old Mine and Island Brook). Discussion ensued on whether the new Non-Resident Parking Fee established applies to non-resident fishermen.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, and passed (Mrs. Walsh abstained), that all non-residents, including fishermen, must display the new \$112 Non-Resident Parking Sticker to park within the park effective immediately with any non-resident who obtained a windshield paper permit prior to this date will be grandfathered-in for this season.

Parking on Rail Trail Entrance off Whitney Avenue near the Pump Station:

It was brought to our attention that vehicle diagonal side-to-side parking rather than nose-to-tail parking at this location would provide parking for additional vehicles.

MOTION by Atty. DeFusco, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed that we will request the Town 's Engineering Department investigate a reconfiguration of parking lines for side by side parking instead of nose-to-tail parking on the entrance roadway to the Rail Trail from Whitney Avenue.

Chairman reported that he and the Town Attorney met to discuss how the Town should deal with confrontational individuals at Town Facilities. The Town Attorney stated the Referee or Umpire is in charge of what is happening on the field and what may be happening around the game. If individuals or situations cannot be diminished or controlled, the Referee or Umpire calls for a Park Ranger. If the Park Ranger needs assistance, the Ranger will call for the Police.

Recreation Director indicated that our Code of Conduct indicates that the Referees are in charge.

Action on Requests:

Eagles Lacrosse :

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, and passed (Mr. Lipinski abstained) to approve Eagles Lacrosse scheduling of ten practices, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., June 16 to July 16, subject to the requirements of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

Rotary 5K Sunset Run

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Moore, passed (Mr. Lipinski Abstained) to approve Trumbull Rotary Club request to host its 15th annual 5K Sunset Run at Twin Brooks Park on Friday, July 24, between 3:00 p.m. until dusk with supervision by the Parks Superintendent, Rangers and Police Department.

Trumbull AYSO:

They reviewed a new program they would like to do in 2015/2016.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Atty. DeFusco, unanimously passed to table a decision until the new Director of Parks and Recreation begins in June when he can fit into his schedule the bringing of all parties together and after which he can bring his recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Tony D'Aquila, Resident Request

MOTION by Attorney DeFusco, second by Dr. Travisano, unanimously passed to request the Town attorney review the terms of the purchases of the 68 acres of the Drew Bill and the Dirago Properties as to the terms of the purchase and advise us what the options are for having the properties dedicated as parkland.

Superintendent's Report:

- Tidy Up Trumbull Event conducted.
- All restrooms are functioning at present.
- All the athletic fields have been fertilized with the first application.
- Community Gardens has been tilled and marked.
- We will be engaging in a cooperative venture with Aquarion to build some raised beds this year at the Community Gardens to be made available to the handicapped or elderly. They will conduct an on-site community day.
- Doing preliminary landscaping and new facade at the Counseling Center.
- We have over-seeded the Bill Property field as well as the Pit this spring.
- We have repaired the main water lines at Beach Pool, at Abraham Nichols, at Indian Ledge, and countless other breaks in our irrigation systems town-wide this year.
- Tennis Courts sustained a significant amount of damage this past winter which is beyond the Warranty. Weather literally tore the upper membrane in half...lower Tashua courts 1000 linear feet of tear, and a portion of Unity...small damage at Island Brook. This is where we have had to re-dedicate funds to cover these repairs. There's a tripping hazard with these tears. All being repaired within the next week. Carve out the effected portion of the tear, go below and stabilize, put another layer down and install the membrane back into it, and visual surface repair. Mostly horizontal tears, ranging in size. These are the courts we are banking on to get to the twenty years life. Courts are over 40 years old. The floating membrane over these courts gave us extended life at a third of the cost of full replacement...the reason for concerns with Warranty restrictions. Cost of repairs about \$9,000.

As a new business question, he has had a question twice from parents to fly photographic drones over the athletic fields so they can take pictures and images of their children playing. Great concern with failure of drone falling during an event. We do not allow any model airplanes or other objects without permission of the Park Commission.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed that no flying apparatus whatsoever are to be flown over any populated areas within any Trumbull parks system without the express permission of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Recreation Director's Report:

They are super busy with Park Stickers Distribution, Program Sign-ups, and BOE moving of scheduled facilities.

Chairman will invite the new Director of Parks and Recreation to attend the June meeting to be introduced to our Commissioners.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Adm. Assistant

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MAY 11, 2015
MOTIONS

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Atty. DeFusco, and unanimously passed to close meeting to guests.

MOTION by Mr. Carron, second by Dr. Travisano, and passed (Mr. Lipinski abstained), to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed until we have more data.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Lipinski, and passed (Mrs. Walsh abstained), that all non-residents, including fishermen, must display the new \$112 Non-Resident Parking Sticker to park within the park effective immediately with any non-resident who obtained a windshield paper permit prior to this date will be grandfathered-in for this season.

MOTION by Atty. DeFusco, second by Mr. Lipinski, unanimously passed that we will request the Town 's Engineering Department investigate a reconfiguration of parking lines for side by side parking instead of nose-to-tail parking on the entrance roadway to the Rail Trail from Whitney Avenue.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, and passed (Mr. Lipinski abstained) to approve Eagles Lacrosse scheduling of ten practices, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., June 16 to July 16, subject to the requirements of the Facilities Use Policy and scheduling by the Recreation Director.

Rotary 5K Sunset Run

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Moore, passed (Mr. Lipinski Abstained) to approve Trumbull Rotary Club request to host its 15th annual 5K Sunset Run at Twin Brooks Park on Friday, July 24, between 3:00 p.m. until dusk with supervision by the Parks Superintendent, Rangers and Police Department.

Trumbull AYSO:

They reviewed a new program they would like to do in 2015/2016.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Atty. DeFusco, unanimously passed to table a decision until the new Director of Parks and Recreation begins in June when he can fit into his schedule the bringing of all parties together and after which he can bring his recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Tony D'Aquila, Resident Request

MOTION by Attorney DeFusco, second by Dr. Travisano, unanimously passed to request the Town attorney review the terms of the purchases of the 68 acres of the Drew Bill and the Dirago Properties as to the terms of the purchase and advise us what the options are for having the properties dedicated as parkland.

MOTION by Mr. Lipinski, second by Mrs. Petitti, unanimously passed that no flying apparatus whatsoever are to be flown over any populated areas within any Trumbull parks system without the express permission of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.